

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

formulating a discovery information query;

sending said discovery information query to an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine to search for discovery information of at least one network device.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising retrieving discovery information from a discovery document on the at least one network device.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.

5. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations comprising:  
searching for discovery information of at least one network device using an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine.

1           6.       The machine-readable medium of claim 5 further comprising formulating  
2 a discovery information query to be sent to the XML-based search engine.

1           7.       The machine-readable medium of claim 5 further comprising retrieving  
2 discovery information from a discovery document on the network device.

1           8.       The machine-readable medium of claim 7 further comprising  
2 manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

1           9.       The machine-readable medium of claim 8 further comprising displaying  
2 the manipulated discovery information.

1           10.      A system comprising:  
2           means for searching for discovery information of at least one network device  
3 using an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine.

1           11.      The system of claim 10 further comprising means for formulating a  
2 discovery information query to be sent to the XML-based search engine.

1           12.      The system of claim 10 further comprising means for retrieving  
2 discovery information from a discovery document on the network device.

1           13.      The system of claim 12 further comprising means for manipulating the  
2 retrieved discovery information.

1 14. The system of claim 13 further comprising means for displaying the  
2 manipulated discovery information.

1 15. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a network device including XML based discovery information.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said XML based discovery  
2 information is in the form of an XML file stored on said network device.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a router.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a switch.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a server.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a computer.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a printer.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device manages other  
2 network devices.

